



## *Assisting Children's Evangelists Worldwide*

### **Devotional**

## **THREE FAITHFUL MEN TO FOLLOW**

Hebrews chapter 11 is the great "faith chapter" and gives a record of many of the great heroes of faith in the Old Testament. The first three examples of faith, in sequence, in this chapter, are Abel, Enoch and Noah. These three men portray together the three results of faith in the lives of individual Christians like you and me, and God is pleased when He sees these results in our lives. (verses 5,6)

### **ABEL**

In Hebrews 11:4 we see that the main feature in Abel's life and faith was that **HE WORSHIPPED GOD**. God had revealed to Abel that he should worship Him by offering up a blood sacrifice and, unlike his brother Cain, he obeyed. He was the first man to do so. God was pleased and satisfied with this act of worship, and with the blood, which was shed, and He gladly accepted it.

In this one verse, at the beginning of our world, we learn that our God desires the worship of those He has created. That worship to-day is based on the sacrifice and shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. I often think of the three verses in John 4:22-24 where we read that the Father is seeking for those "who will worship Him in spirit and in truth." I want to be one of those worshippers. I see that as my very first responsibility, and I want to give it first place in my life and in my daily Quiet Time.

### **ENOCH**

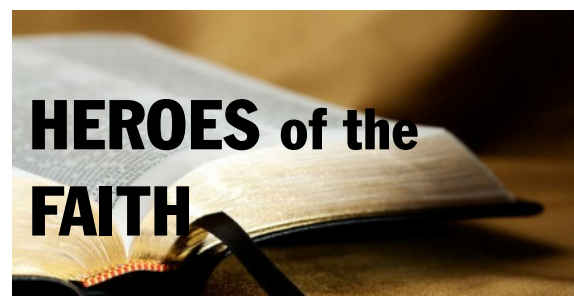
In Hebrews 11:5 we are introduced, secondly, to Enoch a man who was taken away by God without dying. God did so because he was a man of great faith (see verse 6) and because He was pleased with him. But not only was Enoch a man of great faith. We read specifically in Genesis 5:21-24 that **HE WALKED WITH GOD** for 300 years of the 363 years of his life, at the end of which he was taken directly up to Heaven. What does this mean for us to-day? God wants us to walk with Him. We read in Micah: 6:8 that God requires of us "to do justly, to love mercy and to **WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD**." Walking with God, means living a life which is pleasing to the One with Whom we are walking, and displaying justice, mercy and humility. (See also 2 Corinthians 5:7, Galatians 5:16 and Colossians 2:6.) But do not forget that Abel precedes Enoch. Worship comes first and then our walk.

### **NOAH**

The main result of his faith was that **HE WORKED FOR GOD**. (Hebrews 11:7 and Genesis 6) God commanded him to DO something and, trusting God, he did it. It was **difficult hard work**, which he had never done before,



We welcome every downloader to the 59<sup>th</sup> issue of Mini Mag. I asked my computer to give me a definition of the word "welcome" and it replied with these words "A welcome is a kind of greeting designed to introduce a person to a new place or situation.!!" So, on that basis, we welcome our regular readers to the different sections of this Mini Mag, which are revising the main subjects taught in the earlier issues and trust you will find them helpful. We give a special welcome to those who are new and reading Mini Mag for the first time. We trust you will continue to read future issues, and that you will read some (if not all) of the 58 past issues which are still there and waiting to "welcome you."



and he was mocked by many bystanders, It was a **long work** lasting over 100 years, but he kept at it. But it was an **important work** which not only resulted in the salvation of his family, but the preservation of the human race. And this was all possible because of his faith.

Has God got a work for you to do? Go ahead and trust God to enable you to do it. But do not forget that Abel and Enoch precede Noah. **WORSHIP** first, then **WALK**, and then **WORK**. Keep them in that order.

We have, in all previous issues, studied the Bible's teaching about children. We need to remember this, the main passage. These fourteen verses in Matthew's gospel are a real goldmine for children's workers who are looking for the Bible's teaching on children. Along with the parallel passages in Mark 9:33-37 and Luke 9:46-48 they are the main passages in the Bible concerning children.

**Verse 1** It all started with a question. The disciples had been arguing about which of them was the greatest. The Lord Jesus asked them what they were arguing about, but they were ashamed to answer. (Mark 9:34). They then must have decided to ask the Lord Jesus for His answer.

**Verse 2** They were surprised when He did not answer them, but, instead, called a little child (Paidion) to come to Him and He put him in the midst of them.

**Verse 3** He now answers their question by using the little child as a model or object lesson. He tells them that the first step in greatness in the kingdom of Heaven is to be sure that **YOU ARE IN IT**. The way into that kingdom is to become **TRUSTFUL**, like this child. and to be converted. (Children are trustful)

**Verse 4** He then tells them that the second and next step in greatness is to become **HUMBLE** like this child is. (Children are humble) Verses 3 and 4 were specifically directed toward the disciples and answered their question. But these two verses also teach us that little children, like the one used here as an example, are normally both trustful and humble. They are therefore more open to the gospel than adults, and much closer to salvation than sceptical and proud adults are.

**Verse 5** Starting in this verse the Lord Jesus now takes the opportunity to speak directly to the disciples about children like the one in the midst of them. His first command is **TO RECEIVE THEM**, to welcome them into our home or church, and He promises that if we do so, we will be welcoming Him. What a privilege!

**Verses 6 and 7.** In the first of these two verses the Lord Jesus gives us **A FACT** about little children. He speaks about "little ones who **believe in Me**" which shows us that little children **can truly believe** and **be saved**. He then gives us **A WARNING** that we must not cause any of these little believing children **to sin or stumble** by, for example, a wrong attitude or a wrong example.

**Verses 8 and 9** are a warning to those of us who work with children (and to all believers) that we should not offend ourselves or cause ourselves to stumble. Such offences spoil our lives and affect our ministry.

**Verse 10** gives us another **FACT**, that believing children have got guardian angels. because they are so important to God, and **A COMMAND** from the Lord Jesus **not to despise** them or look down on them.

**Verses 11-13** The Lord Jesus tells us a parable which gives us **A FACT** (in the context) that **CHILDREN ARE LOST**, that He loves them and that He desires to save them one by one, as a shepherd saves each lost sheep.

**Verse 14** clearly states the **WILL OF GOD THE FATHER** that not one of these little ones should perish. So, as we evangelise the little ones and lead them to their heavenly Saviour and Shepherd, we are **DOING HIS WILL**.



## KEY QUESTIONS ASKED

## BY CHILDREN'S WORKERS

**Question:** Are Sunday schools still an essential part of a church's ministry.? If so, what can be done to strengthen them and their ministry to children?

**Answer:** There is no doubt that the Sunday School movement has greatly declined from its hey-day in the 19th century and the first part of the 20th century. However, Sunday Schools can still play a major part in the ministry of any church, especially because they are often the main way, sometimes the only way, that the church can minister directly to the children in the church and the children outside the church. The Sunday School has two main functions:

**The Sunday School's first function** is to teach the word of God systematically to the children of those who attend the church. It is the only place where these children can be taught God's word as a group. In such groups, the Word can be taught and applied to the needs and situations not covered elsewhere for children and young people. Surely it is as much the Church's responsibility to teach children in groups as it is to teach other groups which have their Bible studies and prayer meetings. It is true that children should be taught by their parents at home, but that is not sufficient. They need the extra teaching supplied by the Sunday School teachers, in the church.

**BUT** it must be emphasised that we need to make our Sunday Schools attractive and places where these children want to come to without parental compulsion. The surroundings need to be pleasant;

the atmosphere needs to be bright and active, and, above all, the teachers need to be attractive in their appearance and their personality, and, especially, in their teaching.

**Let us make our Sunday Schools places which children want to come to, and where they can be helped spiritually.**

**The Sunday School's second function** is to reach out to the children whose parents do not come to church and invite and bring them into our Sunday Schools. This is much more difficult. Church members are needed to visit surrounding homes to invite the parents to send their children, and to distribute invitations to the children. Church members are needed to conduct or transport, to and from the church, children who want to come. Church members are needed to teach the children in the Sunday School when they are divided into small groups according to their age. All of this demands much time, effort and responsibility. But it can be done. For example, a large team of Sunday School workers at the Metropolitan Tabernacle in London transport hundreds of hitherto unreached children every Sunday afternoon to the church where they receive, in different groups, and along with the "church children", good Bible teaching and attractive evangelism.

**It can be done in your church. Not, of course, on the same scale. But if you have the VISION, make sure you VENTURE and despite the VALLEYS keep going and enjoy the VICTORY which will come.**

## TRUTHS ABOUT TEACHING

Looking back over 58 issues of Mini Mag we find that the subject which appeared in many of those issues was “HOW TO BE A GOOD AND EFFECTIVE TEACHER OF CHILDREN.” That is what we would expect because these Mini Mags are addressed especially to those who TEACH boys and girls. We outlined and explained that teaching is governed by a number of principles. What is a principle? It is just the right way of doing something. Good teachers know these principles, understand them, use them and are guided by them in their teaching.

Our aim this month is to concentrate on two of the most important principles.

### THE PRINCIPLE OF CONCENTRATION

The two main problems faced by teachers of a Bible lesson to children is firstly that they are limited in what they can teach in the 20 minutes or so which are available; and, secondly, that the children are limited in what they can learn in that short time. (especially if they are children with no Bible background) What is the answer? The teacher should teach less and teach it well. It is not enough to SAY SOMETHING. Saying is easy but it is not teaching. Teaching is helping children to learn something they did not know and to apply what they have learned. That is not easy. It requires time, work, preparation and practice. But it is well worth it when the children learn. The secret of good teaching, therefore, is to concentrate your teaching on one truth and teach it



well. Examine the Bible passage on which your lesson is based and ask God to show you the main central truth which that passage is teaching. Then weave and teach THAT TRUTH through your lesson. You can mention other truths which help teach that central truth but concentrate your teaching on a central truth like “God is holy” or “Jesus Christ is the powerful Son of God.” You want every child, saved and unsaved, to leave your meeting fully understanding that central truth.

**THE PRINCIPLE OF APPLICATION** It is not sufficient to teach a central truth. Understanding it is good. But the children need to be taught how to apply that truth to their own lives. So, as you teach this truth during your Bible lesson to all the children,

you should, at the same time, apply that truth in two ways—one application to the saved children and one to the unsaved children. One truth. Two applications. If saved children understand that God is holy, they should desire to be holy. And if unsaved children understand that God is holy, they will see their need of salvation. If saved children understand that the Lord Jesus is the powerful Son of God, He is able to help them overcome that bad temper. If unsaved children understand this truth, they will know that He is able to save them and

forgive their sin.

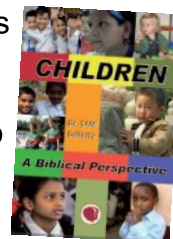
Let's make sure that we base our teaching on these two principles.



**YOU WILL FIND HELP  
IN THESE ACEW  
PUBLICATIONS**

We have written and printed two books which will help you with, and give you a greater understanding of, two of the subjects in this issue of Mini Mag.

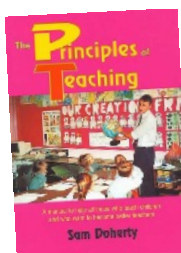
1) “*Children - a Biblical Perspective*” will help you better understand what the Bible teaches about children, especially in the passage Matthew 18:1-14.



2) “*The Principles of Teaching*” will help you use the two principles explained in this issue. But they will also introduce you to, and help you understand, more of those other teaching principles.

Both of these books are available free of charge on the Internet at

[www.cefbookministry.com](http://www.cefbookministry.com)







## ILLUSTRATIONS OF SALVATION FOR UNSAVED CHILDREN

1) This is the story of the convicted criminal who goes free when the judge pays his fine.

Two men who had been friends in their youth met years later in a police court of a great city. One was the judge and the other the prisoner. Evidence was heard and the prisoner was found and pronounced guilty by the judge. The prisoner asked the judge "Could you not free me because we have been such good friends?" The judge replied "No, that cannot be. Justice must be done, and the law must be upheld" So he sentenced the prisoner to either fourteen days in prison or to pay a fine of 500 pounds. The prisoner had no money. So, prison lay before him. But the judge, after he had fulfilled his duty, stepped down beside the prisoner, paid his fine, put his arm around him and said "Now John you are free, and coming home with me for dinner. And I want you to be sure that you do not commit a crime like this again." John thanked him and promised that he would be a new person.

God is holy and just. He cannot overlook sin. He must be fair and punish sin. But He, the Lord Jesus, took our place, and on the cross He was crucified, and took the punishment for our sin, so that we could be free. When we trust the Lord Jesus as our Saviour, we are free—for ever. We will never be punished for our sin. Have you done so? Have you trusted the Lord Jesus as your Saviour?

However, John could have rejected the judge's offer to pay his fine. The judge was willing to do so, but John could have said "I don't want your offer. I will go to prison instead." How silly that would have been. Yet many boys and girls do that to-day and reject the offer of the Lord Jesus to save them.

2) Tim says that he has been a Christian since a bee stung his mother.

One day, he said, he was playing in the garden and his mother was ironing clothes in the kitchen. A bee came buzzing round his head. It came closer and closer, and he thought it was going to sting him. He ran into the kitchen and told her about the bee. It had come into the kitchen after him and was flying around furiously and buzzing. Suddenly it came down and was just about to settle on Tim's arm and sting him. His mother saw what was going to happen and just in time she put her arm over his arm, and immediately the bee stung her arm instead of his. It was a nasty sting, but Tim did not fear the bee now. It had lost its sting when it had stung his mother. And he thanked her for what she had done. Later that evening and just before Tim went to bed, his mother explained to Tim that just as she had taken the bee's sting instead of him, so the Lord Jesus had taken all the punishment for his sin so that he would never have to take it. She explained about what the Lord Jesus had done for him when He died on the cross, and that He wanted Tim not just to thank Him, but to trust Him as His Saviour. And that is exactly what Tim did. So, he became a Christian the day the bee stung his mother.

## 75 Years and Still Learning:

*The author's experience and the lesson he learned*

I trusted the Lord Jesus as my Saviour during the first year of my career as a schoolteacher. Several years later I started to teach in another school, but it was some distance away from where we were living. So, I had to travel to and from my new school each day, and I found it best to travel by train ---a journey of about 40 minutes. On this daily train journey, I discovered there was a Bible class meeting in one of the train's compartments, where nine men from different denominations studied the Bible together during the journey. I joined this group and participated (mostly listened) every morning. As a young Christian I was spiritually hungry, and I greatly enjoyed and appreciated the teaching of these mature men. It was an interesting, fascinating and unusual situation. Ten of us sitting in a railway compartment with Bibles in

## LISTEN AND LEARN

our hands studying and debating God's word for 40 minutes every morning from Monday to Friday. There were times when another person, who was not a member of the group, came into the compartment looking for a seat. It was interesting to see his or her face when we all produced our Bibles and began to study them together. I travelled like this for one year before I could find a home close to my new school. But it was a year of great blessing and spiritual growth for me, and I was grateful to God for this unusual place where I could listen to the teaching of mature Christians and learn from them.

**I would encourage and advise you to look for every possible opportunity to listen to and learn from mature dependable believers.**

The Mini-Mag is published and written by Sam Doherty with the assistance and advice of Terry Flannigan, and Kenneth Martin.

All of them have occupied leadership positions for many years in the worldwide ministry of Child Evangelism Fellowship®. The contents of each Mini-Mag are based upon the author's 75 years of experience working with Child Evangelism Fellowship, successively as national director of Irish CEF, as European CEF regional director and as founder of the CEF Specialised Book Ministry. Contact can be made at [TFACEW@aol.com](mailto:TFACEW@aol.com).

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